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# AGENDA: URBAN ISSUES

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS  
COLLECTION

SEP 14 1998

May, 1997

Dear Friends,

This is an exciting moment. In Massachusetts and across the country, for thirty years the reports from America's cities have sounded like bulletins from a battlefield -- occupied territory increasingly at the mercy of drugs, guns, gangs, and violence. Worse, it appeared that as a society we simply didn't know what to do. For those of us struggling to rescue our cities, the news was discouraging.

I'm delighted to say that all of that is beginning to change.

Here in Massachusetts, through the perseverance, creativity and hard work of thousands of people like you -- citizens, police, prosecutors, teachers, mentors, social workers, and elected officials -- we're seeing distinct progress on many fronts.

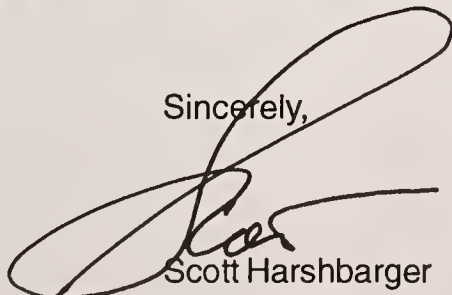
Slowly but surely, neighborhoods are coming back. Old storefronts are blossoming with new businesses. Windows are being replaced with glass instead of cardboard. In Boston, we achieved an entire year in which no young person was killed by a gun!

I'm proud of the role my office has played in that progress, particularly through our two flagship efforts: SCORE, a program that trains students to resolve disputes without violence, and the Safe Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI), a unique anti-crime partnership of citizens, businesses, schools, police, prosecutors, and community leaders. Because of these initiatives and others, schools and communities grown accustomed to chaos and despair are getting a new infusion of hope and order.

We've learned a lot in fighting urban problems. Through SCORE, for example, we've learned that students can do much more than we thought in terms of solving their own difficulties, once they have the tools. We've learned that even the most distressed communities have hidden strengths -- usually an inspiring core of citizens and public servants who are profoundly committed to positive change.

Most of all, we have learned something important: that we can make a difference in our cities -- sometimes dramatic, sometimes incremental -- but always a difference that's worth the fight. I want to thank you for all you've done -- and I look forward to working together in the future. There's still great deal we can do!


Sincerely,



Scott Harshbarger

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## Tuning Out Media Violence

Attorney General Harshbarger recently announced a media violence awareness program entitled, "Tune Out the Violence." Kicking-off the program with a news conference held at the Curley Middle School in Jamaica Plain, the Attorney General debuted a new partnership to combat media violence. Together with the Massachusetts Medical Society & Alliance, Children's Hospital, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and doctors, teachers, parents and students, the Attorney General hopes to raise awareness of media violence and encourage:

- ✧ Parents, guardians, and caretakers to take more responsibility for what children watch.
- ✧ Local television stations to promote violence-free programs, to ensure high-quality educational television, and, to help educate about the effects of media violence through public service announcements.
- ✧ Pediatricians to advise parents, guardians, and caretakers how to take control of the viewing habits of their children so as to minimize violence.
- ✧ Schools and teachers to educate students about the skill of critical viewing to help put media violence into context.

At the program's kickoff, students at the Curley School were asked to keep a media journal in which they tracked the t.v. shows they watched and then rate the violent content. Families were urged to review the journals together and then contact their local television stations to make programming suggestions.

## Harshbarger Outlines Five-Point Plan to Prevent Juvenile Crime Participates in Presidential Visit to Boston

Attorney General Scott Harshbarger, praising President Clinton's effort to shine the national spotlight on anti-crime and juvenile justice programs during his Boston visit, outlined his own five-point action plan to help Massachusetts prosecute and prevent juvenile crime.

Drawing on 20 years of experience in the field, the Attorney General's five-point juvenile justice action plan for Massachusetts calls for:

- ⊙ A mandatory violence prevention and/or conflict resolution curriculum in every public school in the state.
- ⊙ Full funding and full staffing for the Department of Youth Services.
- ⊙ Tougher probation supervision and intermediate sanctions for juvenile offenders who are not committed to DYS.
- ⊙ A commitment to "priority prosecution" of serious, habitual teenage offenders.
- ⊙ Adequate resources to establish a statewide, full-time juvenile court system.

Harshbarger is the sponsor of the award-winning Student Conflict Resolution Experts (SCORE) program, a peer mediation program now operating in 26 urban high schools and middle schools that has proven to be one of the most successful methods of reducing school violence in the state.

In his fiscal 1998 budget request, the Attorney General is seeking funds to expand SCORE statewide.

In addition to working with federal authorities to attack gang activity throughout the Commonwealth, Harshbarger is a co-founder of the Safe Neighborhood Initiative, a crime-fighting and crime prevention partnership established in several urban centers in eastern Massachusetts. (Please see related stories on the SNI on page 4).

Last year, Harshbarger was a prime mover behind the most significant juvenile justice reform legislation enacted in Massachusetts in more than two decades. This landmark law ends the antiquated trial de nova system; allows juveniles charged with murder to be tried directly in adult court; allows prosecutors to seek adult sentences for juveniles charged with other serious crimes; and, opens juvenile court hearings and court records to the public in serious cases.

The Attorney General credits the television industry's new rating system designed to help viewers make informed decisions about what they watch as a step in the right direction. He hopes "Tune Out The Violence" will go one step

further, helping parents, teachers, doctors and other concerned citizens tune out media violence and create a safe environment for our children.







## Harshbarger Joins Senator Jacques to Refile Assault Weapons Ban

Attorney General Harshbarger joined with State Senator Cheryl Jacques and others in refile legislation to ban military-style assault weapons and toughen the penalties for various gun-related crimes.

More stringent than last year's failed legislation, the new bill would ban the sale of 25 assault-type weapons, impose stricter penalties on people who use guns during a felony, and prohibit convicted felons from getting a gun license. Last year, legislation proposing an assault weapon ban was passed by the House and Senate but unexpectedly shelved in a conference committee responsible for producing a compromise bill.

The state law, if passed, would supersede a federal assault weapons ban by covering more weapons and banning both their sale and their possession.

Senator Jacques is lead sponsor of the bill.

## AG uses Consumer Laws to Attack Handgun Violence; New Regulations are First in the Nation

Each year, 13,000 people are murdered with handguns in the United states. Hundreds more die in handgun accidents and teen suicides. Now, Massachusetts is about to become the first state in the nation to use consumer protection laws to help stem the tide of handgun violence.

Attorney General Harshbarger's office is currently finalizing unique, new regulations under state consumer protection laws that will make it easier for police to investigate handgun crimes, help make handguns safer for use by law-abiding citizens who purchase them for safety, and particularly reduce the risk to children.

The proposed regulations have three main objectives:

1. To prohibit the sale in Massachusetts of cheap, often defective weapons made of inferior materials -- so-called "Saturday Night Specials," or junk guns.
2. To improve the tracing of all handguns sold in the state by requiring manufacturers to offer for sale only handguns that have improved, tamper-resistant serial numbers (including the placement of the serial number in a second, nonvisible spot.)
3. To require the child-proofing of all handguns sold in Massachusetts, to help avoid accidental injuries, suicide attempts and the unauthorized use of handguns. Requirements would include installation of a load indicator, a trigger lock, solenoid device or combination lock, and use of grip safety or increased trigger resistance mechanisms.

At a public hearing held late last year, and through written comments, the regulations have received enormous support from, among others, gun control advocate James Brady, Massachusetts Governor William Weld, the public health and medical communities, child safety advocates, and numerous members of the press, including the Boston Herald, the Patriot Ledger, the Lawrence Eagle Tribune, the Lowell Sun, and the Worcester Telegram and Gazette.

The regulations will likely take effect later this spring.

## Minn. Business to Stop Sales of Air Rifles, BB Guns to Minors

A Minnesota-based business has been ordered to take greater precautions in selling air rifles, BB guns and other firearms and ammunition after it allegedly sold the guns to two Roxbury minors.

The business agreed to pay \$5,000 in civil penalties to the Commonwealth and make a settlement offer to a minor consumer who was arrested for being in possession of one of their guns.

In a complaint filed by the A.G.'s office, the business allegedly sold BB guns and air pistols to minors without making any attempts to determine if they were 18 or older - the legal age for buying these and most other types of guns in Massachusetts.







## Spotlight on:

### Chelsea SNI



Attorney General Scott Harshbarger, Chelsea Police Chief Edward Flynn and Chelsea City Manager Guy Santagate recently joined with community and business leaders on a walking tour of the Safe Neighborhood Initiative (SNI) area in the Bellingham Square section of Chelsea.

Chelsea's SNI is a collaboration between the Attorney General's office, the Office of Suffolk County District Attorney Ralph Martin, Chelsea Police, MBTA Police, the Chelsea District Court Probation Department, residents and business owners.

In Chelsea -- as in five other urban neighborhoods -- the SNI works to defeat crime and decay by building partnerships between law enforcement, elected officials and the people who live and work in the target area.

Among the stops on the walking tour were the new 911 Police/Fire Communications Center at City Hall; the Public Library, which is a major placement site for teens in the SNI *Jobs for Youth* program; a former drug den jointly purchased and rehabilitated by the Hispanic Commission and the Boston Land Trust; the Chelsea Providence Cooperative Bank, whose president is a member of the SNI Advisory Council; and the Hispanic Commission, whose program coordinator is also an SNI Advisory Council member.

Upon creation of the SNI early last year, an assistant attorney general and an assistant district attorney were assigned to Chelsea District Court specifically to prosecute SNI-related cases. At the same time,

police launched Operation Zero Tolerance, which makes the enforcement of public nuisance laws a major priority. The result: hundreds of arrests for nuisance crimes such as public drinking and prostitution,

Over the last year, drug sweeps in Chelsea have resulted in 35 arrests, and Operation Nightlight has teamed two probation officers with Chelsea police patrols to give increased protection to the community, especially in terms of juvenile crime and domestic violence.

Ten Chelsea teenagers have landed part-time jobs in the community as a result of the SNI *Jobs for Youth* program, which is administered in conjunction with the Chelsea Department of Health and Human Services.

Similar SNI programs operate in north Dorchester and Dorchester's Grove Hall section as well as in Brockton, East Boston and Lynn.

## Harshbarger Meets With V.P. Gore and A.G. Reno on Juvenile Justice Issues

Massachusetts Attorney General Scott Harshbarger, president of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), and attorneys general from across the country met with Vice President Al Gore and U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno at the White House last month to discuss juvenile justice and crime prevention issues.

A.G. Harshbarger addressed the need for more jobs for inner city teens, and called on the federal government to help fund in partnership the expansion of the successful *Jobs for Youth* component of the **Safe Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI)**.



### **"Jobs for Youth" Orientation**

Attorney General Scott Harshbarger recently sponsored the Safe Neighborhood Initiative (SNI) *Jobs for Youth* Orientation during which urban youth gathered to personally describe jobs that they will undertake as a result of program.

The students' backgrounds and their new jobs were diverse and exciting, ranging from providing translation services for a Cape Verdean non-profit association to leading tutorial sessions at local community centers.

While touring the Attorney General's office (where the event took place), the students talked with the A.G. about their jobs, the effectiveness of the SNI and general concerns such as crime and welfare reform.

Another visit with teens participating in the SNI *Jobs for Youth* program is being planned for this spring.





## Statewide Arson Prevention and Prosecution Program

Attorney General Scott Harshbarger and Executive Office of Public Safety Secretary Kathleen O'Toole recently announced a new three-point plan to attack arsonists and prevent fires in Massachusetts. The statewide arson prevention and prosecution strategy simultaneously boosts fire prevention efforts and creates an expert team to investigate and prosecute arsonists.

As part of the strategy, a joint arson investigation team will work closely with the Administration's newly reorganized Department of Fire Services and State Fire Marshall Steven Coan to develop and execute new fire code enforcement programs. A key component of the program is Harshbarger's appointment of an assistant attorney general to the sole task of arson prosecution. The AAG chosen is a former assistant district attorney with more than 100 arson convictions.

The strategy was devised in a bipartisan effort to expand statewide coordination of efforts involving fire code enforcement, fire prevention education and arson prosecutions.



### ***First Indictment Under New Arson Initiative***

A Quincy man alleged to have set fire to a Dorchester restaurant was the first to be indicted under a new arson prosecution initiative announced by Attorney General Harshbarger and Public Safety Commissioner Kathleen O'Toole.

The man allegedly set fire to the restaurant, causing \$800,000 in damage to the property and injury to a Boston firefighter hurt while putting out the blaze.

## Expansion of Abandoned Housing Recovery Project

Last fall, the Attorney General announced the expansion of a pilot program that uses legal tools to expedite the process of converting abandoned housing into new homes for working families.

In an effort to help Massachusetts cities and towns attack the problem of neighborhood blight, the Attorney General began several years ago a pilot program to take over abandoned housing and work with municipal officials, neighborhoods and developers to rehabilitate the properties. Ventures in Dorchester, Springfield and Orange have resulted in 300 new units of residential housing over the last 18 months, and Harshbarger is now expanding the initiative across the state.



Relying heavily on a 1993 law that provides for court-appointed receivers to rehabilitate residential properties with building and health code violations, the initiative gives communities a way to recover and revitalize property that would otherwise continue as an eyesore and potential health and safety hazard for residents.

Officials with the Attorney General's office will work with local government and community groups to target high-priority properties that need renovation and assist in the appointment of a receiver by local government. The receiver will then undertake renovations if the landlord or owner fails to do so. Under the law, the receiver's liability is limited and he or she is given a priority lien for the expenses to bring the site up to code. Taxpayers pay for none of the costs; instead, repayment for the renovation work is demanded from the absentee property owner. If the owner fails to pay, the appointed receiver works to foreclose on the building.

Attorney General Harshbarger notes that the program "is a tool that can serve not only to remove urban blight, but also to restore a sense of dignity and improve the quality of life for responsible property owners and honest, hard-working families."





## Drug Asset Forfeiture Program Nets Positive Results for Three Communities

Under Operation Take Back, the Attorney General's program designed to hold landlords and owners of bars accountable for drug activity on their property, Attorney General Scott Harshbarger is currently seeking the forfeiture of bars in three communities in Massachusetts.



Bars in Lowell, Weymouth, and Hudson are now the subject of forfeiture action by the Attorney General's office after numerous arrests were made at all three sites for either drunk driving, drug dealing or both.

Under the state's drug forfeiture laws, the A.G.'s office is working with local law enforcement authorities in all three communities to "take back" these properties and provide in their place facilities that offer something positive to their communities. Sites seized through the initiative can be converted for law enforcement purposes, or sold and the funds from their sale split between the law enforcement agencies involved. For example, another former Lowell bar, Kout's Cafe, was seized last year and is currently being converted to a police station annex.

The Laconia Lounge in Lowell had been the site of 40 drug-related arrests over a 30-month period. The seizure action is being carried out in conjunction with the Lowell Police Department and the Middlesex County District Attorney's office.

In Weymouth, the 312 Pub was the site of drug dealing for several years, allegedly with the knowledge and cooperation of the pub's owners. The seizure action was carried out with assistance from investigators assigned to the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission and the Weymouth Police Department.

Billy Jack's in Hudson is the third site under seizure by the A.G.'s office. Working with the Hudson Police Department and the Middlesex District Attorney's office, the A.G. alleges that the bar has been a public nuisance and the cause of numerous drunk driving incidents since 1992. It has also been the site of five drug-related arrests since 1992.

Operation Take Back has also been implemented in the communities of Chelsea, Quincy, Dorchester, Lawrence and Worcester.

## 52 Charged with Drug Dealing in Framingham

A drug sweep operation in Framingham, implemented by the Attorney General's office, netted the arrest of 52 individuals, most on cocaine distribution charges.

The arrests are the result of a six-month investigation designed to clean up neighborhoods and improve the quality of life for the people who live there.

In addition to the 52 picked up in the sweep, an additional 25 alleged dealers have been arrested throughout the investigation. State troopers attached to the A.G.'s office worked with Framingham police to implement this operation.

## Five Drug Dens Closed in City of Springfield

In February, Springfield Police declared five of their top ten drug dens closed thanks to a three-month-old program launched in conjunction with the Attorney General's office and other law enforcement offices to crack down on drug dealers there.

The program consists of a task force of representatives from the participating law enforcement agencies and neighborhood organizations. They select the properties to target through the use of arrest records and other tools. Under the program, city officials notify landlords of tenants that have been arrested on drug charges and encourage them to evict such tenants, as required by law. If a landlord refuses to act, authorities can seize the property under federal law. City officials have put into place an ongoing top-ten list of havens for drug dealing and have vowed to continue adding to that list until all drug dealers are driven from Springfield.

*More cases detailed on page 10.*

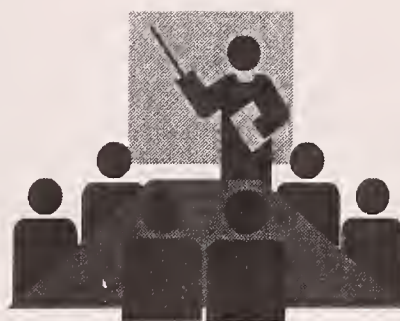






## Peer Mediators Hone Skills at A.G.'s Conference

Student mediators from across the state took part in panel discussions and practical workshops, as well as had the opportunity to tell about their experiences resolving conflicts without violence at Attorney General Harshbarger's Peer Mediation Conference.



Approximately 320 peer mediators from grades six through twelve, 100 program coordinators, and other guests attended "Students Mediators of Massachusetts: Creating Understanding." Held at Worcester State College, the day-long conference highlighted the successful work done by young people who are part of Harshbarger's award-winning Student Conflict Resolution Experts (SCORE) program and other student peer mediation programs in the Commonwealth.

To date, the Attorney General's office has started 39 SCORE programs and is currently funding 23 programs in five middle schools and 18 high schools in Boston, Fall River, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lynn, Lowell, Malden, Medford, North Dartmouth, Pittsfield, Somerville, Springfield, Taunton, Wakefield and Worcester.

The main panel at the conference, which student mediators requested themselves, focused on developing and strengthening skills to mediate racial disputes in schools and in the community. Other discussion groups and workshops offered advanced skills for dealing with difficult parties, crisis prevention strategies, and information on the A.G.'s Conflict Resolution Teams (CITs), which are made up of adult community mediators who provide emergency conflict resolution services to the state's schools.

The SCORE program is designed as a violence prevention strategy, teaching students the skills to resolve conflicts peacefully. Describing the students who have been trained as mediators as the "unsung heroes of our communities," Harshbarger notes that they deserve real credit for helping produce the recent downturn in youth violence.

As of this writing, SCORE mediators have successfully resolved 97% of the 7,000 student disputes referred to them.

Attorney General Harshbarger has asked the state Legislature to appropriate \$1 million for the next fiscal year to double the number of schools reached by the SCORE program. In 1994, both the SCORE and CIT programs received the Ford Foundation's national Innovations in State and Local Government Award.

## Youth Center Named for Slain Prosecutor

Community workers hosted a benefit in Dorchester last fall to raise money for the \$250,000 capital campaign to convert a former crack house into a youth center that will be named in honor of Paul R. McLaughlin, the assistant attorney general that was fatally shot in 1995.

The Paul R. McLaughlin Youth Center, which will be part of the existing Colonel Daniel Marr Boys & Girls Club, will replace an abandoned drug den on Melvinside Terrace. The building was turned over to the Boys & Girls Club by its owner, Fleet Bank (formerly Shawmut Bank). Once renovated, the facility will serve more than 2,500 area youths with activities that include recreation, academic assistance, guidance and day care support.

Paul McLaughlin was an assistant attorney general assigned to Dorchester's Safe Neighborhood Initiative to prosecute gang activity and take criminals off neighborhood's streets.

### A.G.'s Mediation Services

*In 1996, the Mediation Services Department of the Attorney General's office completed 3,797 mediations through the Face to Face Mediation Programs, SCORE and CIT programs.*

*In addition, the department has released a SCORE video: "Preventing Youth Violence," and the "Score Workbook for Quality Peer Mediation Programs," as well as completed 13 SCORE trainings, 21 skill-building workshops and numerous public events and presentations.*

*If you are interested in learning how Attorney General Harshbarger's Mediation Services Department might work with your school, please call (617) 727-2200.*





## A.G.'s 1997 Crime Control Legislative Proposal

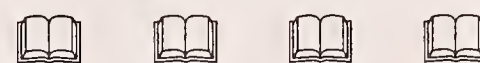
Attorney General Scott Harshbarger has announced a legislative proposal designed to strengthen the criminal justice system in Massachusetts by consolidating state correctional agencies, requiring mandatory substance abuse testing for all convicted offenders and enhancing sanctions for those convicted of domestic violence and witness intimidation.

Harshbarger's proposal, which has the support of co-chairs of the Legislature's Criminal Justice Committee, Senator Robert Antonioni of Leominster and Representative Peter Larkin of Pittsfield, focuses on improving public safety by making the state's corrections system more accountable, efficient and effective.

The linchpin of the Attorney General's 1997 Crime Control Legislative Proposal is the consolidation of correctional agencies in Massachusetts. Under the proposal, a cabinet-level position would be created with sole responsibility for overseeing all criminal justice functions, including probation, parole and prisons. Currently, the Executive Office of Public Safety has oversight of prisons and parole, with the courts having primary responsibility for probation. Consolidated management of all three functions would allow for the most effective use of taxpayer resources while creating a centralized authority to manage all levels of offender supervision and punishment.

Also key to the proposal are recommendations for:

- Mandatory substance abuse testing and treatment for convicted offenders. Offenders who fail a drug test will face sanctions, including revocation of probation, and will be required to undergo substance abuse treatment;
- Creation of a Penalties Enforcement Program to collect the approximately \$35 million in criminal penalties and fines owed by defendants, and impose immediate sanctions for failure to pay, including loss of driver's license and garnishment of wages;
- Stronger laws against domestic violence, including creation of the crime of aggravated assault for attacks on pregnant women and assaults in violation of a restraining order, and increased penalties for violation of a restraining order;
- Funding of community-based, interagency crime prevention partnerships to develop a comprehensive system to reduce delinquency, violence, victimization and substance abuse; and
- Creation of a formal statewide Witness Protection Program to provide emergency protection for crime witnesses, including shelter, relocation and change of identity. The program would be funded through drug forfeiture monies, forfeited bail deposits and illegal gaming forfeitures.



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## Boston: No Youths Slain by Guns in 20 Months



While homicide rates are dropping in many cities throughout the nation, Boston has a remarkable statistic all its own: Not a single juvenile under the age of 17 has been killed by gunfire since July 1995.

While no one can take full credit for the drop (there were five juvenile deaths by gunfire in 1994), police, public officials and criminal justice experts point to some innovative and inexpensive strategies adopted in Boston over the last few years.

Those strategies include giving a number of probation officers the power to make arrests by putting them in patrol cars with police officers (so they could arrest individuals they saw violating their probations). Since Boston began the joint patrols in 1992, the number of young people picked up for violating probation has tripled and rates of compliance with court-ordered conditions of probation have risen from 15 to 70 percent.

Boston's officials are also placing an intensified focus on controlling gangs and guns. A recent Harvard study found that three-quarters of juvenile killers and their victims had been involved with gangs. Using a data base of all Boston homicide victims younger than 21 who were killed by a gun or knife in the previous five years, the researchers found that both the victims and the killers tended to have long criminal records and were well known to law-enforcement authorities. Gang members are recognized by probation officers and, if they are on probation or parole, they can be picked up and incarcerated without a new trial if they are in violation of the terms of their release.

Armed with this information, Boston police have adopted a "zero tolerance" approach to gangs and guns. They have set up warning meetings with gangs in which representatives of federal, state and local authorities are present. In one case where a gang did not heed the warning and continued a series of shootings, a united law enforcement operation went into effect and 23 gang members were arrested, most on federal drug charges.

The crackdown has also provided one other positive result: an honorable way out for many young people who were previously afraid not to join a gang or have a gun.

## Springfield Tackles Violence with Citywide Prevention Task Force

Organized in 1992, the Citywide Violence Prevention Task Force mobilizes the community to identify, confront and eliminate the forces and factors contributing to violence in city of Springfield. To those ends, the Task Forces facilitates activities that will mobilize, empower and educate.

The Task Force was originally convened by the Center for Human Development, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center and the New North Citizen's Council/El Instituto de la Familia. It now includes representatives from community-based agencies, the public schools, city departments, churches, neighborhood groups and concerned individuals.

The Task Force focuses its energies on five critical areas:

- ◆ Promoting cooperation and involvement;
- ◆ Expanding the role of schools in violence prevention initiatives;
- ◆ Investing and committing to the community;
- ◆ Teaching and practicing respect for diversity; and
- ◆ Building self-esteem in youth and others.

These themes evolved from a 1993 citywide conference and have resulted in more than 100 different initiatives, programs, projects and other violence prevention efforts throughout the City.

In June, Springfield will celebrate its 5th annual violence prevention month.

***If your City is doing something special to tackle the problem of urban violence, we would like to hear about it.***

***Please send materials to be considered for publication to:  
Denise Snyder, Office of the Attorney General,  
20th Floor, One Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108.***





## Anti-Domestic Violence Conference

Last fall, Attorney General Harshbarger hosted the 6th Annual Domestic Violence Police Training subtitled, "The Police Officer's Role in Prevention and Intervention."

Held in Burlington, the conference was attended by approximately 300 officers from 132 municipal, college and state police departments and featured workshops and seminars on prevention and intervention issues.

This year's conference included panels on legal developments, coordinated response efforts, and the presentation of a cross-cultural prospective to domestic violence. Workshops focused on issues such as 209A, the impact of domestic violence on children, probate court issues, victim issues and teen dating violence, to name just some of the topics. Speakers included representatives of law enforcement, the courts, education, and victim advocacy.

The Attorney General sponsors this annual conference to help keep police officers up to date on changes in the law and other issues that affect their handling of domestic violence cases.

In a related effort, Attorney General Harshbarger recently distributed "A Community Checklist: Important Steps to End Violence Against Women," a pamphlet published by the U.S. Department of Justice Advisory Council on Violence Against Women, of which he is a member. The publication contains suggestions on dealing with domestic violence for the clergy, employers, colleges and universities, health professionals and the media.



## Hingham Man Sentenced to Five Years for Drug Trafficking

A Hingham man was sentenced to five years in state prison after he pled guilty to cocaine trafficking charges.

The defendant was arrested in February 1995 on a parole violation warrant by the Federal Bureau of Investigations's Violent Fugitive Task Force. Upon searching his apartment, police found more than 60 grams of cocaine and more than \$4,000 in cash.

## Lynn Couple Sentenced to 10 Years for Cocaine Dealing; Used 13-year old to deliver drugs

A Lynn couple pled guilty to charges they were trafficking in cocaine and used a 13-year old boy to deliver the drugs for them. They were each sentenced to ten years in state prison.

On two separate accounts, State Police assigned to the A.G.'s Narcotics and Special Investigations Division conducted undercover narcotics investigations of the couple. On both occasions, the couple used the woman's 13-year old son to deliver cocaine to the undercover agents.

Following completion of the jail sentences, the couple will be turned over to the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service for deportation hearings. The son is in the custody of the state Department of Social Services.

## Harshbarger Takes Part in Senator Kerry's Domestic Violence Hearing

Attorney General Harshbarger participated last month in a panel discussion and informal hearing sponsored by Senator John Kerry on federal domestic violence funding programs.

A.G. Harshbarger participated in a panel which included testimony from police officers, prosecutors, and domestic violence advocates, all supporting the need for federal assistance in this critical area.

The event was held at the Boston Y.M.C.A.





## A.G. and MBTA Reach Historic Agreement on Discrimination Claims

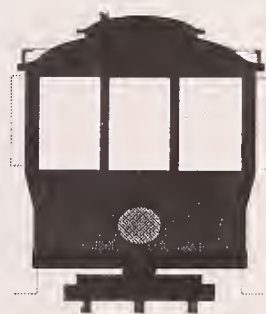
In February, Attorney General Scott Harshbarger, Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) management including General Manager Patrick Moynihan, and unions representing more than ninety percent of that agency's employees signed an historic, legally-binding agreement to prevent discrimination, harassment, and retaliation at the MBTA.

The agreement, which reinforces laws against discrimination based on race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, and religion, is the result of a sixteen-month investigation by the Office of the Attorney General that began when the MBTA's Concerned Minority Employees organization alleged discriminatory treatment.

New procedures at the MBTA will include the installation of a computerized system of record-keeping to identify any repeat offenders, who would then receive disciplinary treatment. Also, workers' complaints will receive a quicker and more thorough investigation, an appeals process will be instituted, workers and supervisors will receive better training, and non-executive job openings at the MBTA will be publicly posted.

In order to ensure proper enforcement of the new agreement, the MBTA will in the first year file monthly reports to the Attorney General, quarterly reports in the second year, and every six months in its third and final year.

Attorney General Scott Harshbarger hopes that this unique agreement will serve as a model for protecting minorities in other public agencies in Massachusetts and throughout the rest of the country.



## Harshbarger Pushes NYNEX to Provide Emergency Phone Service to Mission Hill Residents



Last fall, Attorney General Harshbarger urged the state Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to order NYNEX to provide emergency telephone service during prolonged service outages.

In a brief submitted to the DPU, the A.G. argued that NYNEX be required to explain its efforts to restore service when outages last longer than 24 hours and affect at least 24 customers. He also recommended that NYNEX:

- Estimate when service will return
- Notify customers of a number they can call for a recorded explanation of the situation
- Offer customers voice mail
- Deploy the mobile trailer unit and/or cellular phones
- Remind customers of their right to automatic credit for service loss
- List an outage hotline number so those with serious medical conditions can communicate their needs

The Attorney General's efforts follow a petition drive by Mission Hill residents to bring NYNEX before the DPU for what they termed "inadequate service." A week-long outage last year that knocked out phones for 258 residences and 35 businesses, including three nursing homes, prompted the neighbors' efforts.

Harshbarger, acting as an official representative for consumers, found that an average of approximately 25 outages occur annually across the state that affected 50 or more customers for 24 hours or longer.

## Housing Discrimination Cases Reach Agreements

In separate actions, a Waltham landlord and a Hyde Park real estate company have each reached agreements with the A.G.'s office in their discrimination cases.

In Waltham, an apartment complex owner must pay damages to a defendant who alleged racial discrimination and also take specified steps for the next three years to attract more African-American tenants, including the public posting of all available units.

In Hyde Park, a real estate company and its owner have been ordered to pay \$9,000 to a Haitian couple who were the victims of alleged discrimination by that firm. The company are also required for the next five years to display appropriate equal opportunity notices in their office and advertisements for housing.

Similar actions are currently being pursued in ongoing housing discrimination cases in Foxboro and Everett.





## Speaking Out on Urban Issues

Would your organization like to learn more about the work of the Attorney General's office? Staff members of the Office of the Attorney General are available to speak to interested groups on such topics as:

**Violence Prevention**  
**Domestic Violence**  
**Gun Regulations**  
**The Safe Neighborhood Initiative (SNI)**  
**Student Conflict Resolution Experts (SCORE)**  
**The Abandoned Housing Project**  
**Drug Asset Forfeiture Programs**

If you are interested in learning more about one of these topics, or another topic relevant to the responsibilities of the Attorney General's office, please call the Speakers' Bureau at (617) 727-2200, ext. 2674.



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